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SUBJECT: PLAN COLOMBIA IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ROUND-UP,  
AUGUST, 2004

1. The following is an update of some Plan Colombia-related activities reported during the Embassy Plan Colombia Implementation Meetings of August, 2004.

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RSO  
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2. Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) Program Managers Ed Lee and Jim Schnaible visited post from August 16-21. The purpose of their visit was to renew the tactical training program and the AKI database. They met with the Ambassador, Vice President Francisco Santos and Minister of Defense Jorge Uribe and briefed them on plans to recommence training for FY2005 and problems/issues surrounding the database program. The ATA team also met with the in-country contractors for both programs to establish training schedules and address coordination and administration issues on both the U.S. and GOC sides. ATA will advise Post, the VP, and MoD (through RSO) regarding issues requiring action and outline its plan for CRT training to include the number of GAULA units to be trained during FY2005. A separate report on the database design and needs will also be provided. The report will outline the contents of the database, the designated GOC users, and the projected timeline for delivery of the database in phases.

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DOJ  
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3. From August 1-13, DOJ conducted two Expert Witness Training Courses for 20 forensic examiners per course in Bogota and Pereira. The course is designed to train crime lab forensic examiners in the skills required to testify and present evidence in an accusatory (oral trial) system. Each student gets realistic experience by testifying as a witness in a simulated "mock trial."

4. From August 9-13, DOJ conducted a Money Laundering Course for Judicial Police training in Bogota. Twenty-five officers from the National Police (CNP), Fiscalia, the Technical Investigative Corps of the Office of the Prosecutor General (CTI), and Department of Administrative Security (DAS) attended the course. They received specialized instruction in current money laundering trends, financial analysis, banking compliance operations, money exchange house regulations, and general legal aspects of money laundering.

5. From August 23-25, DOJ conducted the first of eight Police Ethics/Anti-Corruption Seminars in Bogota. Forty CNP Commanders and supervisors attended. The seminar focused on leadership, discipline, and transparency within the police ranks. Through December 2004, this seminar will be conducted on seven more occasions at police training sites throughout Colombia.

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USAID  
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6. USAID's efficiency and accountability program presented its recommendations on accounting and internal control practices to the Colombian National Council for Internal Control (NCIC). The recommendations were based on a USAID-designed internal control model that was tested in 26 national entities. On the basis of this presentation, the NCIC established a committee that will draft a framework to standardize and implement new internal control principles in other public entities. It is highly likely that the NCIC committee will follow USAID's proposed parameters and eventually make the standards mandatory for all public entities, both national and sub-national. The implementation of these standards will be key to improving efficiency and transparency in Colombia's public management system.

7. Ambassador Wood and Colombia's first lady Lina Moreno de Uribe dedicated the first Handicraft Fair in support of alternative development programs. The event, organized under USAID's Colombian Artisan Enterprise Initiative, generated nearly US \$15,000 in sales. The Colombian Artisan Enterprise Initiative is a five-year, US \$4.26 million project that promotes licit employment and income opportunities for artisans by strengthening their capacity to produce and

market crafts. Activities are primarily focused in departments (similar to a U.S. state) with strong potential for artisanal development. Since September 2002, the project has benefited over 350 artisan households and generated roughly US \$190,000 in sales. It is estimated that the project will produce roughly US \$1.75 million in sales over its five-year time frame.

18. Ambassador Wood and President Uribe launched the joint USAID/Plan Colombia "Convocatoria Conjunta" rubber projects in Cimitarra, Santander. The "Convocatoria Conjunta" is an agro-industrial development program implemented in partnership with the private sector. Under the project, USAID funding of roughly US \$16 million is leveraging over US \$78 million in private sector resources. The projects -- which will benefit 4,520 families -- will support the cultivation of crops such as coffee, rubber, cocoa and palm oil. Activities will be implemented in the Departments of Antioquia, Bolivar, Caldas, Cauca, Cordoba, Cundinamarca, Huila, Narino, Norte de Santander, Santander, and Tolima. The projects will expand alternative and sustainable economic options for small producers and will increase private sector investment in targeted growth corridors vulnerable to illicit crop production.

19. USAID financed a regional workshop to support the establishment and management of plant quarantine and inspection activities in accordance with international standards. The workshop provided key plant health and inspection officials from the Andean countries with technical information and training sampling methodologies for phytosanitary inspections and quarantine treatments. It also addressed new international phytosanitary norms regarding wood packaging in international trade, emergency programs for quarantine pest outbreaks, and technical aspects of developing manuals for plant quarantine and treatment activities.

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NAS  
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10. On August 13, NAS Director accompanied Victoria Restrepo, the GOC's Plan Colombia Alternative Development Coordinator, on an inspection of manual coca eradication operations in Pauna, Boyaca Department. NAS has provided technical support and equipment to various Colombian National Police units who are undertaking manual eradication operations, while the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) has provided training in equipment operation and the manual application of herbicides.

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DEA  
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11. Related activities reported in septels.  
DRUCKER